(b) and (c) Some report have been received regarding accumulation of stocks in the forest depots. Sandalwood in the form of logs, chips, flakes etc. which form the raw material for the manufacture of handicrafts, mechine finished products and sandalwood oil, are auctioned from time to time by the forest depots for the manufacture of such value add products whose exports are freely permitted.

Review of export councils under Commerce Ministry

6767. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plant to make a review of all the Export Councils under the Ministry;

(b) whether there is a possibility of encouraging exporters organisations to consider expanding their role; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The review of the Export Promotion Councils under the Ministry of Commerce is being held at the time of approving the annual plan and Budget, and the mid-year review according to the provisions of para 149 of the Export Import Policy. In addition, reviews are also held as warranted.

(b) and (c) The role and functions of the Export Promotion Councils are specified in Paras 145 and 146 of the Export-Import Policy and the Councils are constantly encouraged to expand their role consistant with their charter.

Import of Newsprint

6768. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value and weight of Newsprint imported from foreign countries during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): As per Foreign Trade Statistics published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics for the period April, 1994 — February, 1995 the value and weight of newsprint imported from foreign countries are as under :—

Weight (Tons)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
259193	42713.93

Public Sector Companies|Undertakings Engaged in Export, Joint Ventures with Foreign Companies

6769. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector companies|undertakings presently engaged in export trade, joint ventures with foreign companies for establishment of export oriented units in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these companies had a lot of disturbance because of Government's in decision or inept handling of certain payments due to them;

(c) whether repeated efforts by such export companies in public sector to sort out the problem have not resulted in resolving the problems so far;

(d) whether Government have also receied a spate of requests on such accounts from Members of Parliament in the last one year;

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(f) what further action is proposed to be taken in this regard?